

B-3587

c. 1823

Daniel Robinson-Lewis Linker house
Baltimore
no access/ U. Md.

The dwelling at 119 Diamond Alley is one of a pair of nearly identical buildings which are versions of a larger row dating from the 1820's. The west facade, two bays wide by three bays high, is executed in Flemish bond for the first two stories with common bond above the well of the second story lintels and continuing to the two-course corbeled brick cornice. The doorway, located in the southern bay and approached by a flight of steps, is boarded up as are the majority of the windows, and the only remaining trim is the plain wooden lintel with undifferentiated corner blocks. The windows possess this same lintel and a single, projecting soldier course which forms the sill.

The interior of these buildings suffers from extensive fire damage but nevertheless, it retains its basic plan which consists of back-to-back parlors, each with a fireplace. The rear parlor contains a window to the upstairs flanking the fireplace and a doorway to the subsequently added rear kitchen addition.

In the mid 19th century, Diamond Alley was known as Market Lane, and, as entries in the city directories from the period indicate, the area was the locus of a number of small businesses. Francis Dawes, cooper, operated his business from one of these houses from 1833-42. Lewis Linker, a cabinet maker, leased this building (119) in 1858 and continued at this address through 1865-66,

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAMEHISTORIC
Daniel Robinson - Lewis Linker HouseAND/OR COMMON
119 Diamond Alley**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

119 Diamond Alley

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore City

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ OTHER abandoned

4 OWNER OF PROPERTYNAME
State of Maryland/University of Maryland

Telephone #: 853-3683

STREET & NUMBER

Office of University Planning, University of Maryland

CITY, TOWN

College Park

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20742

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baltimore City Courthouse

Liber #: 3345

Folio #: 759

STREET & NUMBER

Calvert & Fayette Streets

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore,

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

B-3587

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR
☒ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The dwelling at 119 Diamond Alley is one of a pair of buildings which are survivors of a larger row of buildings dating from the 1820's. Diamond Alley, known as Market Lane is the early nineteenth century, runs north-south parallel to Greene and Paca Streets subdividing the block between Lexington and Fayette Streets. The pair (numbers 117 and 119) are bounded on the south by a parking lot and on the north by a multi-story commercial building. Across the alley from these two structures on the exposed southern face of the multi-story, brick commercial building is visible the ghost of a gable indicating (as do the nineteenth century maps mentioned below) the existence of a similar row of modest brick row houses.

The two surviving dwellings are nearly identical in appearance. The northernmost of the pair at 119 Diamond Alley, is about fourteen feet wide, its facade consisting of two bays at each of three story levels with an entrance raised above street level. The west facade is executed in Flemish bond for the first two stories with common bond above the level of the second story lintels and continuing to the two-course, corbelled brick cornice. The change in brickwork indicates that the buildings was raised from two to three stories, probably within 10-15 years of original construction. (Another indicator of two different periods of construction is the existence of riven-lath on the interior of the first story, and machined lath on the third floor.)

On basement level a small window opening occurs in the northernmost of the two bays; flanking it to the south, four concrete steps form the approach to the doorway on first story level. The doorway itself is boarded shut, as are the majority of the windows, and the only remaining trim is the plain wooden lintel with undifferentiated corner blocks which appear as though originally they may have received some decorative treatment. The lintel of the window which constitutes the northern bay of the first story is placed evenly with the one belonging to the door and is identical in appearance. A projecting soldier course of bricks forms the sill.

The second story features two windows in positions corresponding with the openings below and similarly detailed. The northern window is entirely covered in plywood except for the sill, but the lintel of the southern window is visible.

On the third story, two windows of the same proportion and trim punctuate the wall above the other fenestration. The transom bar of the southern window is all that remains of the sash.

The flat roof which once sheltered the structure is now largely gone, like much of the interior of this building and its neighbor 117, victims of extensive fire damage. Access was gained to both buildings via a second story rear window reached from the roof.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES c.1823

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The dwelling at 119 Diamond Alley along with its neighbor at 117 Diamond Alley are typical of a species of building fast disappearing in present-day Baltimore. Located in an alley within a very short distance of Lexington Market, these narrow, subsequently heightened structures exemplify once-common expanses of working class housing constructed during the second and third decades of the nineteenth century.

At that time, Diamond Alley was known as Market Lane and, as entries in the city directories from the period indicate, was the locus of a number of small businesses. Frances Dawes, cooper, operated his business from one of these houses from 1833-1842.¹ Lewis Linker, a cabinetmaker, leased the building at 119 in 1858, and city directories continue to list him at this address through 1865-1866.

In 1833 prior to Samuel Walker's acquiring the property from Daniel Robinson (and subsequently renting to Francis Dawes), Charles Howard transferred via lease both properties to Robinson "to have and to hold with improvements, said lot of ground and premises" for \$120 ground rent. The improvements or premises are the dwellings at 117 and 119 Diamond Alley which first appear on Poppleton's 1823 Map of Baltimore as part of the heavy settlement concentrated on the block bounded by Paca, Fayette, Greene and Lexington Streets, directly south of Lexington Market.

Insight into these buildings' importance to the area is gained when one compares them to other buildings on the block such as 502 and 504 W. Fayette, constructed for wealthier tenants, where the prop are ampler and the detailing more refined. The juxtaposition of types (working class and upper middle class housing) within the same square block provides an important social as well as architectural document of the period.

Footnotes:

1. Baltimore City Directories for 1833, 1835-6, 1837-8, 1842.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Poppleton's 1823 map of Baltimore.

Files of the Commission on Historical and Architectural
Preservation, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland
(Entries for 117, 119 Diamond Alley).

Field notes and measured drawing by Orlando Ridout V, Historic
Sites Surveyor for the Maryland Historical Trust.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ellen K. Coxe, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

December 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

119 Diamond

Description continued

Page 2

of the rear addition to No. 117. In plan the buildings are mirror images of each other: on the first story, they are one room wide with entrance door opening onto a front parlor, lit by a west facade window and with fireplace in 119 on the north wall. At the southeast corner of this room is a doorway into the rear parlor which is distinguished by a fireplace centered on the north wall and flanked by a winder stair on the west and a closet to the east. The east wall is articulated by a doorway to the north leading to the kitchen wing and a window to the south.

The kitchen wing, probably added within ten years of the buildings' initial construction is constructed of brick with a flush chimney with corbelled cap located in the northeast corner of the wing. The wing was lit by two equal-sized windows on its south facade.

Because of the considerable fire damage, access from the second to the first and third floors was problematical. The second floor plan consists of room behind room with a fireplace in each room on the north gable wall, in positions corresponding to the first floor layout. The fireplace in the front rooms is flanked by alcoves on each side, but the fireplace like others in the building is blocked and the mantel has been removed. Two windows as described above in the west wall light the room, and a door in the stud partition wall leads into the rear room. Walls are plastered with some machine lath and machined nails visible. The ceiling joists are run parallel to the gable and are vertical sawn. Fragments of plain beaded trim survive in situ.

The fireplace in the rear room of the second floor is flanked by a cupboard to the east, and the stairway to the west. A brick party wall is shares with the next house.

On the third story, the same plan prevails, with no clear evidence existing of stove flues. The shed roof affords approximately 5'-8" headroom at rear; the front room had a regular ceiling below the shed creating about 6'-6" headroom.

117, 119 DIAMOND ALLEY

Entries From Baltimore City Directories:

(excerpted from the files of the Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland)

Sublease running with transactions recorded from at least 1833, when Daniel Robinsen conveys property to Francis Dawes with \$36.00 ground rent noted.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1833 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dawes, Francis: cooper
Fayette Street below Greene and Paca
dwelling, Dutch Alley 2. Walker, Samuel P. (?): tobacco and cigar warehouse
Market St. (?) above Eutaw
dwelling, Fayette St. 3. Edmund (?) Didier: merchant
Calvert St.
dwelling, Calvert Street north of Lexington |
| 1835 - 36 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Didier, E. - not listed 2. Tierman - 11 Charles Street 3. Dawes - Market Alley south of Lexington Street 4. Walker, Samuel: carpenter
Bane (?) St. west of Hanover 5. Walker, S.D.: tobacco and cigar warehouse
dwelling, Fayette |
| 1837 - 38 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. no Didier 2. no Tierman 3. Walker, S.: tobacco merchant
dwelling, Fayette Street, east of Paca *4. Dawes - Fayette Street west of Howard 5. Hack, Andrew: grocer
corner of Howard and Dutch Alley
dwelling, Lexington Street |
| 1842 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dawes, Francis - Fayette St. west of Howard 2. Hack, A. - Lexington between Pine and Love Streets 3. no Tiernam 4. no Walker, S. 5. Walker, S.A.: carpenter
corner of Lombard and Sharp Streets
dwelling, Madison Street west of Howard Street 6. Preiss, Husch - Granby and High Streets |
| 1845 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dawes - 149 Fayette St. 2. Preiss: dry goods merchant 3. no Hack 4. Walker, Samuel: carpenter
46 Bane Street 5. Hack - 285 Lexington Street |

-2-

117, 119 Diamond Alley

- 1855 - 56 1. Hartzog, George: broker
 house, 85 Camden
 2. Roloson, Fred: varnish manufacturer
 16 North Paca
 house, 305 (?745) Lexington Street
 3. Ridgeway, Sam - 88 Camden Street
 4. Snowden, Philip: land agent
 5. Haywood, Jac.: ornamental painter
 135 North Eutaw
- 1856 - 57 *1. Hayward, Jacob: ornamental painter
 23 Diamond Street (now 127 Diamond)
- 1858 - 59 1. Linker, Lewis: Cabinetmaker
 15 Diamond Street (now 119 Diamond)
 2. Reynolds, Luther M.: Attorney
 3. Snowden, Philip and Matthew: land agents
 88 Fayette Street

CHAIN OF TITLE

117, 119 Diamond Street

(excerpted from the files of the Commission on Historical
and Architectural Preservation, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland)

JB 1037/179 2/2/1885 Mortgage	From Marie Hildebrand to Emmett/Perpetual's Mutual Building Association.
FAP 853/525 11/11/1879 Release	From Mphonsus Hall Building Association #12 to Hildebrand
GK 799/12 1/14/1878 Mortgage	From Michael Long to the Commercial Mutual Building Association.
GK 786/95 9/3/1877 Mortgage	From Michael Long to the Commercial Mutual Building Association.
GR 675/232 9/10/1874 Mortgage	From George Hildebrand (and Marie) to Alphonsus Hall Bldg. Assn.
GR 586/27 10/28/1871 Mortgage	From Thomas J. Hanley to Marg. (Michael) Long,
GR 540/44 11/16/1871 Release	From Charles St. Building Association (#6) to Heinrich Herguth.
GR 376/474 5/21/1868 Assignment	From Joseph Brunner to Hildebrand.
GES 228/279 3/26/1863 Assignment	From Jacob Hayward to Brunner.
GES 198/278 10/12/1860 Assignment	From Michael Lanahan to Luther M. Reynolds.
GES 181/222 12/15/1858 Lease	From Thomas M. Lanahan to Lewis Linker.
ED 150/202 6/19/1858 Assignment	From Philip M. Snowden to Jacob Hayward

117, 119 Diamond Street

ED 150/200 6/19/1858 Sublease	From Thomas Lanahan and Sam(?) Ridgeway to Philip M. Snowden
ED 148/283 5/24/1857 Assignment	From Ridgeway to Lewis Linker
ED 126/325 5/2/1856 Release	From T.M. Lanahan to Ridgeway
ED 125/61 5/2/1856 Mortgage	From Ridgeway to Lanahan
ED 98/527 9/1/1856 Mortgage	From Ridgeway to Lanahan (for both properties)
ED 88/450 8/14/1855 Assignment	From Frederick Roloson to Ridgeway
AWB 418/75 8/8/1849 Lease	From Hirsch Preiss to Hartzog for "ground and premises" (\$120 annual ground rent).
AWB 412/34 4/19/1849 Sublease	From William A. Hack and Andrew A. Hack to Kaufman Hamburger
AWB 400/184 7/18/1848 Deed	From Samuel Walker to Francis Dawes (\$36 ground rent)
TK 338/132 1/25/1844 Deed	From George W. Brown (in trust for Charles Tiernan) to W.A. Hack (of the firm of Tiernan & Son, the surviving partner after Tiernan's death was in debt to H.A. Kuyper, trader in Rotterdam).
TK 267/452 12/8/1835 Assignment	From E. Didier (executress) to Tiernan, through Alex Brown
TK 238/440, 237/263 Sublease	From Samuel Walker to Didier, sublease (together with buildings)
TK 233/35 12/18/1833 Deed or Assignment(?)	From Daniel Robinson to Walker

117, 119 Diamond Street

TK 227/25
1/2/1833
Lease

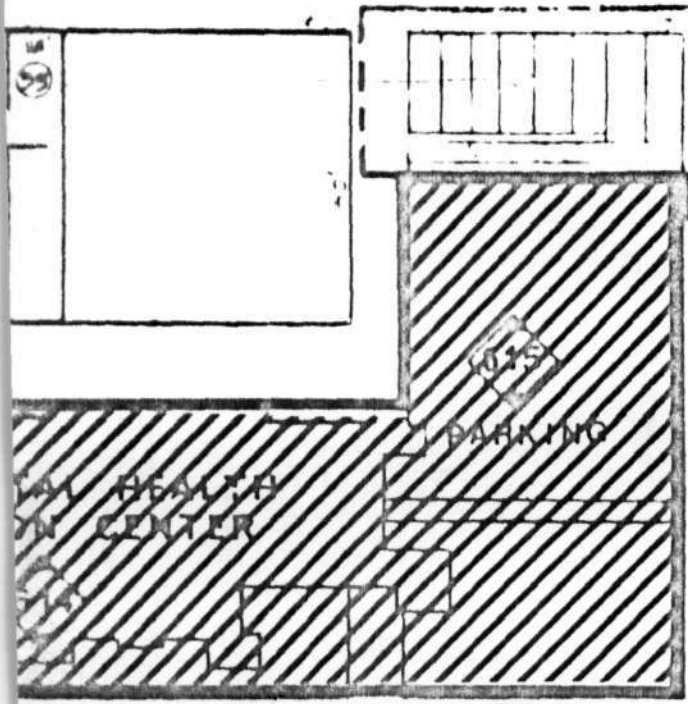
From Charles Howard to Daniel Robinson, lease dated
Jan. 2, 1833 for both properties "to have and to hold
with improvements, said lot of ground and premises",
for \$120 ground rent.

B-3587

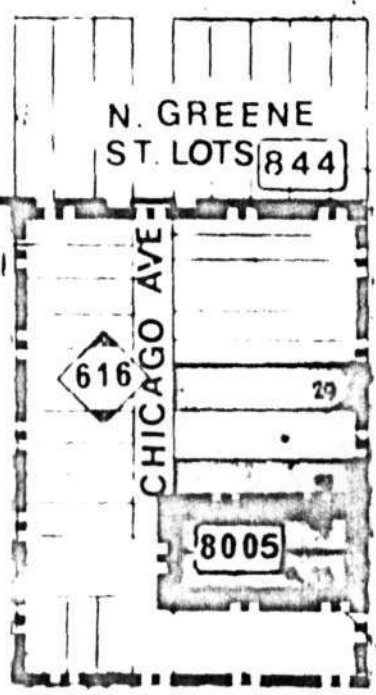
CIVIL LAW C

843

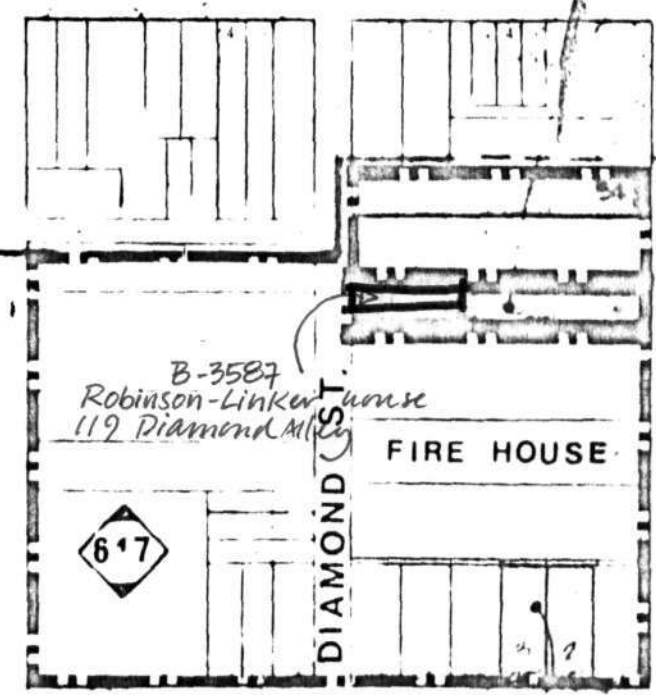
W. LEXINGTON STREET



PEARL

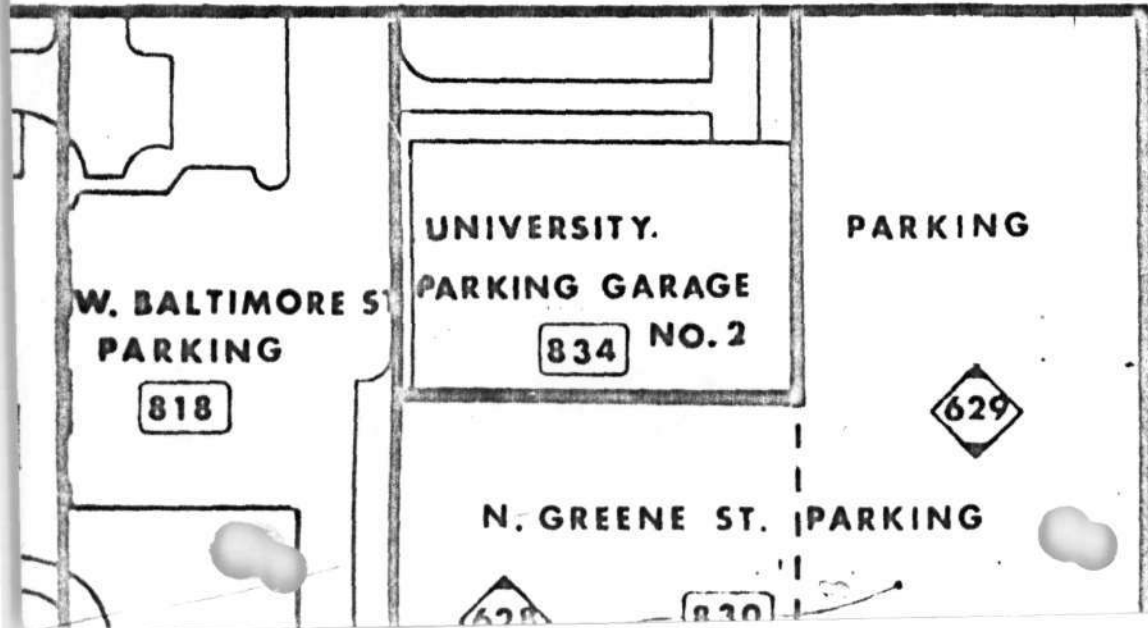


N. GREENE ST.

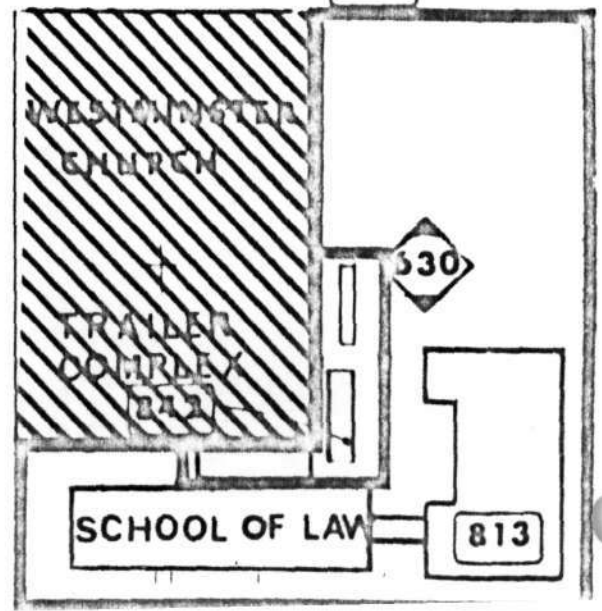


N. PACA STREET

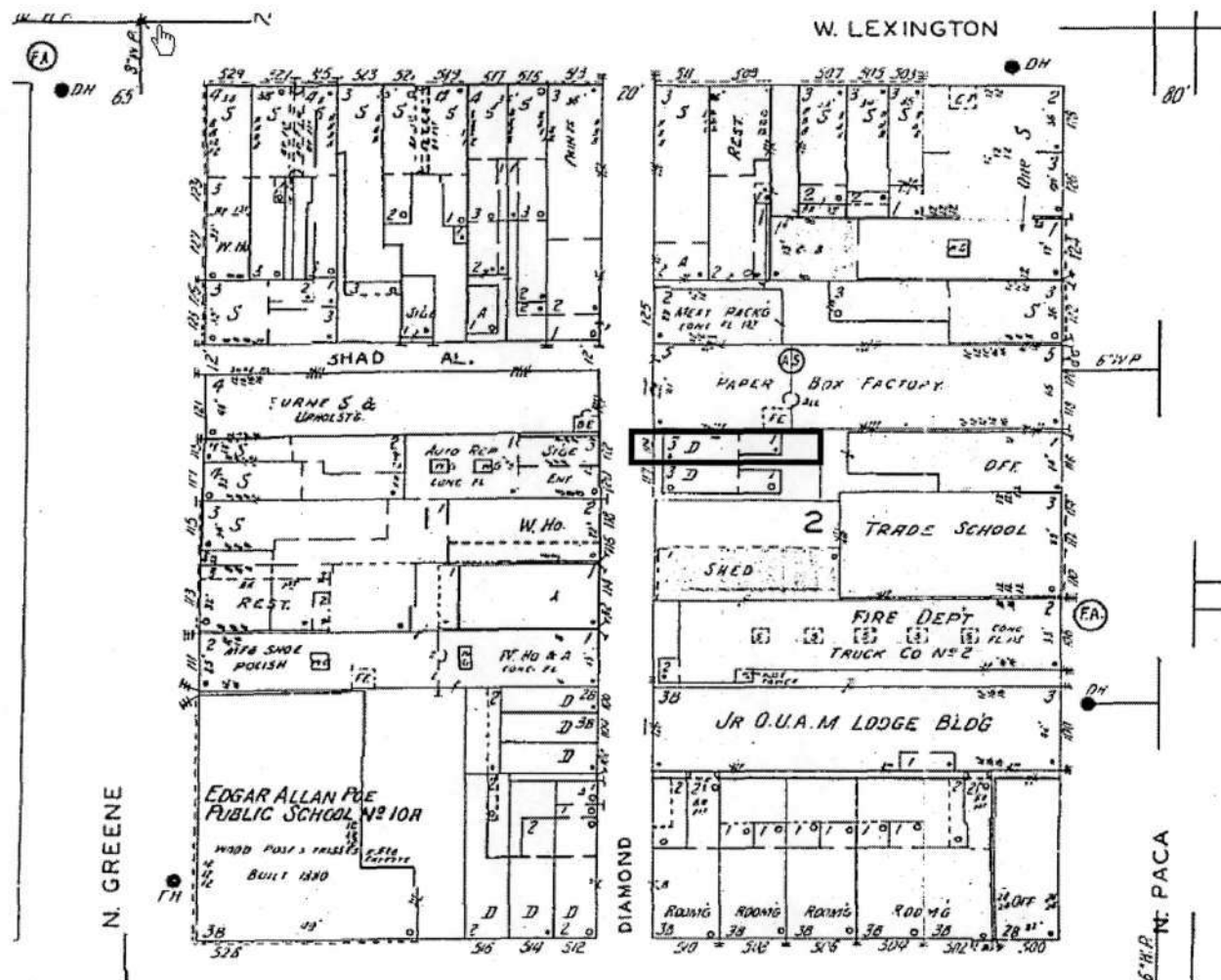
W. FAYETTE STREET TUERK HOUSE



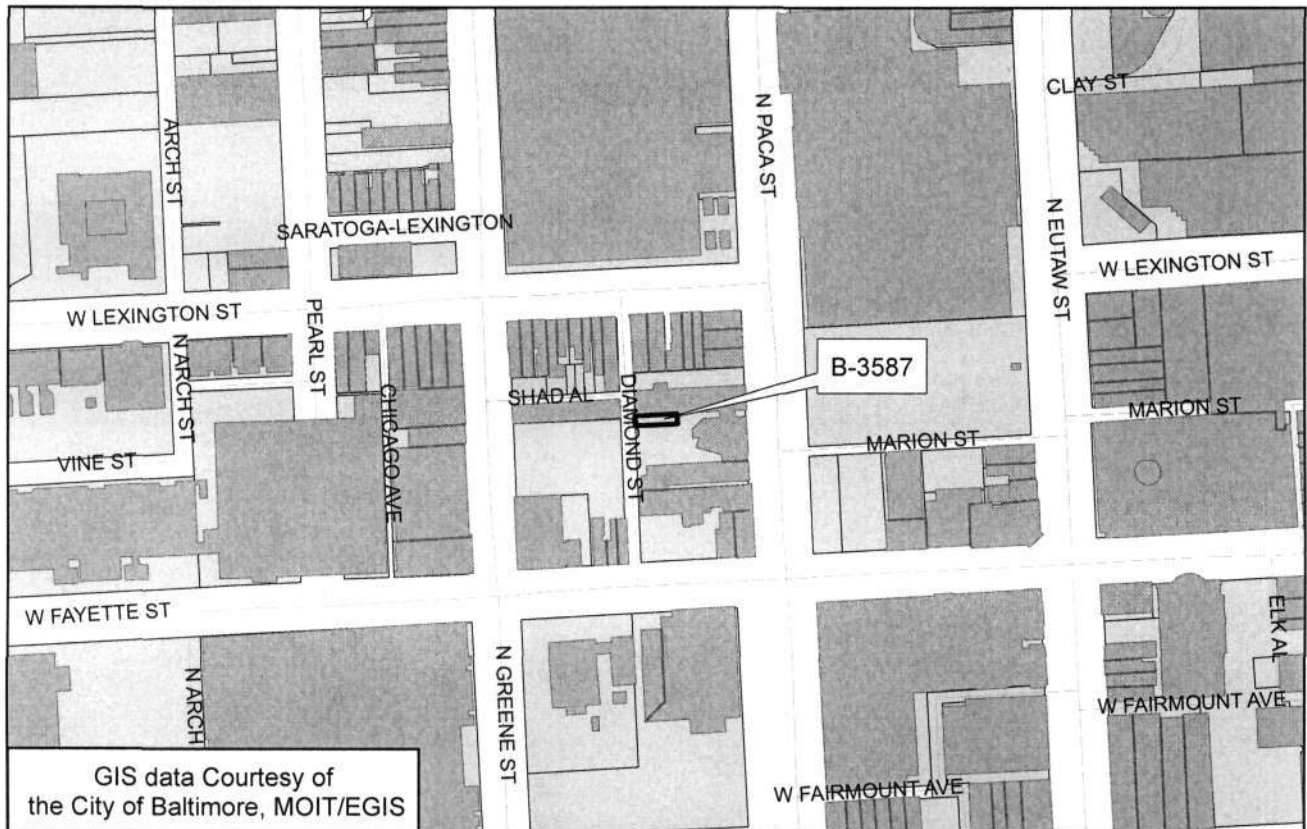
W FAYETTE ST. LOTS 848



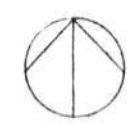
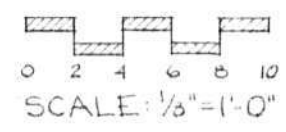
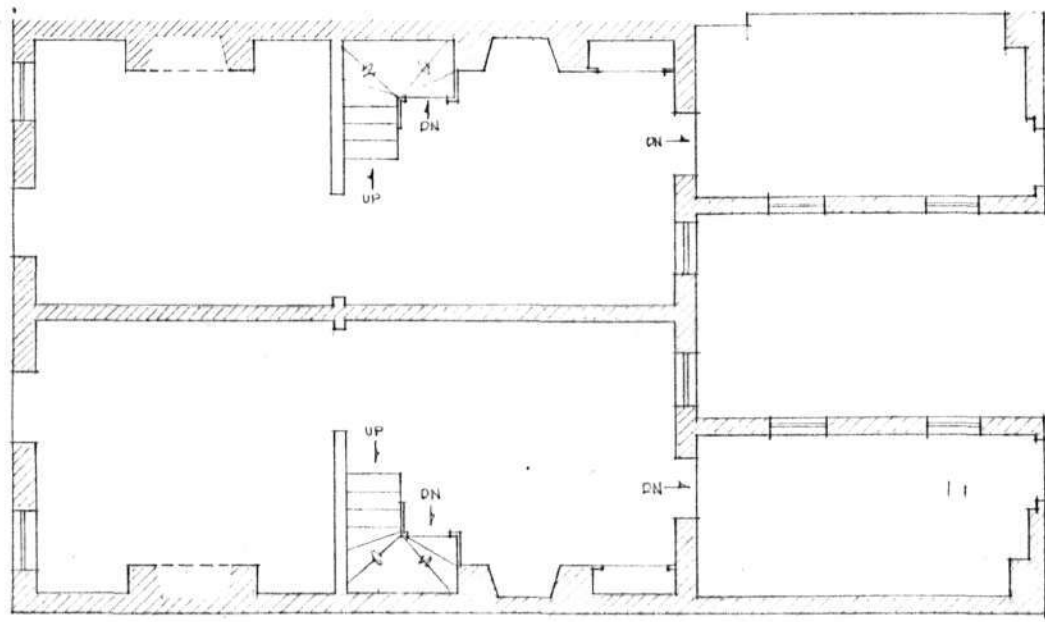
Sanborn Baltimore 1914-1953 vol. 1A, 1914, Sheet 30A



B-3587
Daniel Robinson House (Lewis Linker House)
119 Diamond Street
Block 0617 Lot 034
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad



DIAMOND ALLEY

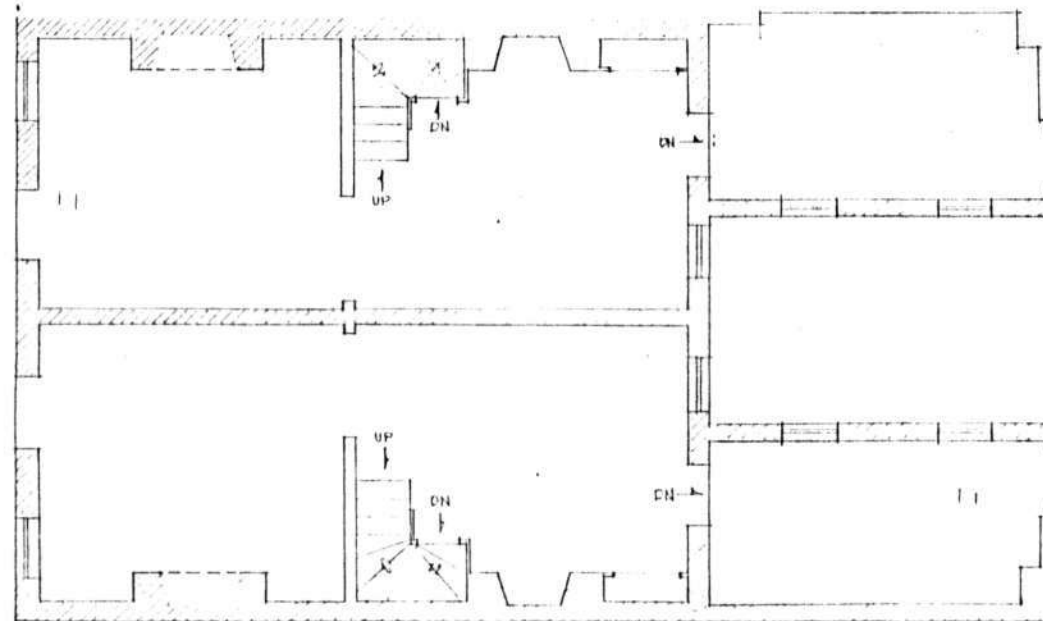


ORLANDO RIDOUT V

117-119 DIAMOND ALLEY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

DECEMBER 7, 1979

DIAMOND ALLEY



0 2 4 6 8 10
SCALE: 1/8" = 1' 0"



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

117-119 DIAMOND ALLEY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

DECEMBER 7, 1979



B-3587, 3586

119, 117 Diamond Alley
Baltimore, MD (UMAB)
Southwest elevation.
12/79 E. Coxe